

# Nixon Aide Girds for 1972— Federal Bar Election, That Is

7-29-71

By Sanford Ungar

Washington Post Staff Writer

There is no contest in the election for a new president of the Federal Bar Association, but the only candidate seems to be running unprecedently hard.

The campaign for him has attracted special notice in Washington's legal community, because he also holds a rather influential position in the government.

He is Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst.

Unless a last-minute write-in effort should be mounted, which is an unlikely prospect, Kleindienst is virtually assured that for 1972-73, he will lead the organization of more than 12,000 lawyers who are or have been employed by the federal government.

Now vice president of the association, Kleindienst has been credited by the group with recruiting "at least one-third" of a substantial membership increase over the past year.

He also has just been named chairman of a special blue-ribbon committee of the FBA to study "improvements in the federal career legal service."

A. S. Harzenstein, a Philadelphia lawyer who was once a hearing examiner with the Internal Revenue Service and is now completing his term as FBA president, announced the ap-

pointment of Kleindienst to the Special Committee in a mailing to the membership last week.

## Slate Endorsed

Enclosed in the same envelope was Harzenstein's endorsement of the unopposed slate of national officers as well as a reprint of a newspaper article that describes Kleindienst as "a man of light heart and deep sense of social conscience."

Several members of the association who live in Washington told a reporter that they also received the campaign literature for Kleindienst in the same envelope with the FBA's official ballot.

But J. Thomas Rouland, executive director of the association said that was impossible since the ballots and the campaign materials were sent out in different lots by the same Washington printing firm.

"They're confused," Rouland said of the FBA members who claim to have received everything in a single package. "It probably just all arrived on the same day."

Earl W. Kintner, a past president of the FBA and a Kleindienst backer, said yesterday that the campaign mailing which bore Harzenstein's return address in Philadelphia and a Washington postmark, was paid for

by the candidates themselves and "old stalwarts" of the FBA.

He said the mailing was normal for election-time and was intended "primarily to stir up spirit for the next year."

But Harzenstein, who has been active in the organization for 32 years, said he could recall no recent precedent for the mailing on Kleindienst's behalf.

## No Letter Recalled

The incumbent president said that no such letter was sent out for him two years ago or last year for his successor for 1971-72, C. Normand Poirier, deputy general counsel of the Commission on Government Procurement.

Like many other legal organizations, the FBA elects a new president one year in advance.

Harzenstein added that he felt the mailing was unnecessary, but was persuaded to go along with it by a number of FBA members. Since the names of the candidates had already appeared in "Federal Bar News," he said, the mailing was probably also "a waste of money."

Kintner suggested that Kleindienst was selected to head the special FBA committee because he might be able "to use his position to upgrade the career legal service."